



13281 U.S.PTO

FLEXIBLE LIGHT ARRAY AND FABRICATION PROCEDURE THEREOF

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

5 The present invention relates to light emitting devices and
more particularly, to a flexible LED display panel. The invention
relates also to the fabrication of such a flexible LED display panel.

2. Description of the Related Art:

Following fast development of information technology, a variety of LED display panels have been developed and used in different electronic products. These LED display panels may also be used as signboards, signal lights for transportation vehicle, outdoor TV walls. By means of controlling on/off operation of individual light emitting diodes, a LED display panel can show a message or motion picture, which is practical for sending messages to people in real time. However, conventional LED display panels are fragile and not convenient to carry. Further, because conventional LED display panels are not bendable, they have a view angle limitation.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in view. It is therefore the main object of the present invention to provide a flexible light array, which can be used as a

flexible LED display panel. It is another object of the present invention to provide a flexible light array, which is convenient to carry and provides a wide view angle. To achieve these and other objects of the present invention, the flexible light array comprises

5 flexible substrate, the flexible substrate having a plurality of conducting circuits therein, and a plurality of light emitting diodes arranged into at least one longitudinally and transversely aligned LED array on at least one of two opposite sides of the flexible substrate and respectively electrically connected to the conducting

10 circuits of the flexible substrate and controllable by a driving circuit to emit light.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will be more readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a flexible light array
20 constructed according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the flexible light array according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a side view of an alternate form of the flexible

light array according to the present invention, showing two LED arrays symmetrically arranged on the top and bottom sides of the flexible substrate;

FIG. 4 is a side view of another alternate form of the
5 flexible light array according to the present invention, showing two LED arrays arranged on the top and bottom sides of the flexible substrate in a staggered manner;

FIG. 5A is a side view in section of still another alternate form of the present invention, showing the flexible light array of
10 FIG. 2 packed in a flexible tube;

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 5A;

FIG. 6A is a side view in section of still another alternate form of the present invention, showing the flexible light array of FIG. 3 packed in a flexible tube;

15 FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 6A;

FIG. 7A is a side view in section of still another alternate form of the present invention, showing the flexible light array of FIG. 4 packed in a flexible tube;

FIG. 7N is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 7A.

20 FIG. 8A is a side view in section of still another alternate form of the present invention, showing the flexible light array of FIG. 2 molded with a flexible plastic packing layer;

FIG. 8B is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 8A;

FIG. 9A is a side view in section of still another alternate form of the present invention, showing the flexible light array of FIG. 3 molded with a flexible plastic packing layer;

FIG. 9B is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 9A;

5 FIG. 10A is a side view in section of still another alternate form of the present invention, showing the flexible light array of FIG. 4 molded with a flexible plastic packing layer;

FIG. 10B is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 10A;

10 FIG. 11 is a circuit block diagram of a 4x4 flexible light array constructed according to the present invention; and

FIG. 12 is a flexible light array fabrication flow chart according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. 1, a flexible light array is shown
15 comprising a flexible substrate 11 molded from flexible plastic and having conducting circuits (not shown) therein, and a plurality of light emitting diodes arranged into an array of LEDs 12 on one side of the flexible substrate 11 and electrically connected to the conducting circuits in the flexible substrate 11 through a dielectric layer (not shown). This design of flexible light array is practical
20 for use as a signal light means for transportation vehicles, a signboard or an outdoor TV wall for advertising.

Light emitting diodes may be arranged into an array of

LEDs 12 on one side of the substrate 11 as shown in FIG. 2, or into two symmetrical arrays of LEDs 12 on the top and bottom sides of the substrate 11 as shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 4 shows the light emitting diodes alternatively 5 arranged on the top and bottom sides of the substrate 11, forming two staggered arrays of LEDs 12 at the two sides of the substrate.

Referring to FIGS. 5A and 5B, the flexible lighting array of FIG. 2 may be packed in a flexible tube 13 that admits light. The flexible tube 13 may be coated with a layer of color filter coating.

10 Referring to FIGS. 6A and 6B, the flexible light array of FIG. 3 may be packed in a flexible tube 13 that admits light. The flexible tube 13 may be coated with a layer of color filter coating.

Referring to FIGS. 7A and 7B, the flexible light array of FIG. 4 may be packed in a flexible tube 13 that admits light. The 15 flexible tube 13 may be coated with a layer of color filter coating.

Referring to FIGS. 8A and 8B, a flexible plastic packing layer 14 may be molded on the substrate 11 of the flexible light array shown in FIG. 2, keeping the array of LEDs 12 embedded in the flexible plastic packing layer 14. The plastic packing layer 14 20 admits light and is coated with a layer of color filter coating.

Referring to FIGS. 9A and 9B, a flexible plastic packing layer 14 may be molded on the top and bottom sides of the substrate 11 of the flexible light array shown in FIG. 3, keeping the two

arrays of LEDs **12** embedded in the flexible plastic packing layer **14**. The flexible plastic packing layer **14** admits light and is coated with a layer of color filter coating.

Referring to FIGS. 10A and 10B, a flexible plastic packing layer **14** may be molded on the top and bottom sides of the substrate **11** of the flexible light array shown in FIG. 4, keeping the two arrays of LEDs **12** embedded in the flexible plastic packing layer **14**. The flexible plastic packing layer **14** admits light and is coated with a layer of color filter coating.

FIG. 11 shows a 4x4 flexible light array constructed according to the present invention. As illustrated, the flexible light array comprises a driving circuit **15**, conducting circuits **16**, and light emitting diodes **17**. The light emitting diodes **17** are arranged into a 4x4 array of LEDs **12** respectively installed in the conducting circuit **16**. The driving circuit **15** is electrically connected to the conducting circuits **16**, and adapted to control on/off of the light emitting diodes **17**. Therefore, the array of LEDs **12** can be controlled to produce a visual signal or motion display for use as a flexible LED display panel for advertising or transportation vehicle.

Referring to FIG. 12, a flexible light array fabrication procedure comprises the steps of: preparation of LED array **S100** where a number of light emitting diodes are arranged into a LED array, preparation of flexible substrate **S102** where a flexible

substrate is prepared having conducting circuits therein, electric connection of LEDs to flexible substrate **S104** where the prepared LED array is electrically connected to the conducting circuits of the flexible substrate, packaging **S106** where the flexible substrate
5 is packed with a flexible plastic packing layer or a flexible tube, and singulation **S108** where the package thus obtained is cut subject to the desired size. After singulation **S108**, a driving circuit **15** is prepared and connected to the conducting circuits **16** of the substrate (see also FIG. 11 for controlling on/off operation of the
10 light emitting diodes **17**.

As indicated above, the invention provides a flexible light array, which comprises a flexible substrate, at least one LED array installed in the flexible substrate, and a driving circuit adapted to control on/off operation of the light emitting diodes of the at least
15 one LED array.

A prototype of flexible light array and its fabrication procedure has been constructed with the features of the annexed drawings of FIGS. 1-12. The flexible light array and its fabrication procedure functions smoothly to provide all of the features
20 discussed earlier.

Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing

from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.